

# Columbus Youth Sports Code of Conduct

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of children. Therefore, it is essential for parents, coaches, spectators, and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Furthermore, parents, coaches, spectators, and officials involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control.

The Columbus Parks and Recreation, Foundation For Youth (FFY), and the Police Athletic League (PAL) have worked in partnership to develop a Youth Sports Code of Conduct. We ask that you pledge to be responsible for your words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in all youth sports events and shall conform your behavior to the following code of conduct:

1. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
2. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
3. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
4. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
5. I will not use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products while at a youth sports event and will not attend, coach, officiate, or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. I will not permit my child, or encourage any other person, to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products at a youth sports event and will not permit my child, or encourage any other person, to attend, coach, officiate, or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. I will not engage in the use of profanity or any other offensive language.
8. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in the use of profanity or any other offensive language.
9. I will, and will encourage my child, to treat any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee with respect.
10. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
11. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
12. I will not initiate a fight or scuffle, or retaliate, with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
13. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to initiate a fight or scuffle, or retaliate, with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.

Anyone who fails to conform their conduct to the preceding code of conduct while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in a youth sports event will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination:

1. Verbal warning issued by the league or organization.
2. Written warning issued by the league or organization.
3. Suspension or immediate ejection from a youth sports event issued by the league or organization or by someone who is authorized to issue such suspension or ejection by the league or organization.
4. Suspension from multiple youth sports events by the league or organization or by the appropriate official authorized to issue such suspension by the league or organization.
5. Season suspension or multiple season suspension issued by the league or organization.

Note: A suspension by one organization may be carried over to another organization. The most severe consequence may occur after the 1<sup>st</sup> infraction and shall be in the unrestricted discretion of the responsible officials.

Example: If the Columbus Parks and Recreation suspends someone for the remainder of a season, it may also carry on to a Foundation For Youth (FFY), Police Athletic League (PAL), or another Parks and Recreation activity.

*(Based on State of New Jersey, Model Athletic Code of Conduct.)*